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Montana
Association of
Conservation
Districts, Inc.
Annual meeting
proceedings.

Montana Association Of Conservation Districts



STATE BULLETIN'S COLLECTION

Vol. 1 No. 1 1991

MONTANA STATE OF BOZEMAN
1000 E. BOZEMAN
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

10TH ANNUAL MEETING PROCEEDINGS

THEME:

"Challenging the Conservation of the 80's"

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MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

ANNUAL CONVENTION
Nov. 10 - 12, 1980
Outlaw Inn - Kalispell

SUNDAY, Nov. 9

Legislative Committee Meeting - 2 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting - 7 p.m.

MONDAY, November 10

Water Quality/Loss of Prime Farmlands Tour - Flathead CD
Budget & Finance Committee - 10 a.m.

Registration

Opening Convention - President Dale Marxer

Welcome: Frank Guay

Panel: Land use

Moderator: Robin Street

State Land Breakup - Leo Berry, State Lands

Land Reliance Program - Les Pederson, Land Reliance

Riparian Areas - Kit Walther, Water Quality Bureau

Triangle Saline Seep - Ted Dodge

Committee Meetings

Youth Recognition Dinner

Master of Ceremonies - Cecil Weeding

Presentation of Colors - Flathead FFA

Invocation - Tim Wiersum

Speech Contest: "Challenges in Conservation for the 80's"

Comments: Mary Ann Gildroy, Allis Chalmers

Teacher of the Year

Presentation of Allis Chalmers Award:

Richard Donelson, NACD

Presentation of Speech Awards:

Ken Krueger, President

Montana Associated Utilities

TUESDAY, November 11

Registration

Morning Session - Jim Yedlicka Presiding

Energy Resources & Alternative Sources - Lex Blood

Flathead Comm. College

Panel: Biological Weed & Insect Control

Moderator: Chuck Rein

Norm Rees, USDA Rangeland Insect Lab.

Gary Jensen, Biology Dept., MSU

Jim Story, Western Ag Research Center

HIPLEX (High Plains Cooperative Program) - Weather Modification

Rich Moy, Water Science Bureau, DNR&C

Keynote Luncheon:

Master of Ceremonies - Darrell Fenner

Invocation - Frances Van Rinsum

Newsletter Awards: Herb Karst

Keynote Address: John Melcher, U.S. Senator

TUESDAY, November 11 (Continued)

National Dietary Goals - Andrea Pagenkopf, Extension Service
Afternoon Session - John Teigen, Jr., Presiding
SCS Report - Van Haderlie
NACD Councilman Report - John Vanisko
RCA (Resource Conservation Act) - Gordon Watson, SCS
Panel: 310 & 404
 Norm Peterson, Fish Wildlife & Parks
 Del Broers, Corp of Engineers, Omaha
 Bill Bleggi, Corp of Engineers, Seattle
James Welsh, Dean of Agriculture, MSU
Workshop for Supervisors & District Employees
SWCDMI Business Meeting
 John Vanisko Presiding
 Plant Material Center Report - Jim Yedlicka
 Treasurer's Report - Gladys Hippe
 Consideration of Busines
 (No SWCDMI Meeting due to lack of quorum)
Social Hour - No Host
Banquet:
 Master of Ceremonies - Robin Street
 Invocation - Pastor Darold Reiner
 Door Prize - Frank Valgenti & Associates
 Goodyear Awards - Roscoe Skold
 Entertainment
 Banquet Speaker - Bud Mekelburg, Vice President, NACD

WEDNESDAY, November 12

Directors Breakfast - Courtesy of Roscoe Steel & Culvert
MACD Business Meeting
 Dale Marxer Presiding
 Treasurer's Report - Gladys Hippe
 MACD Office Report - Ray Beck
 President's Report - Dale Marxer
 Ladies Aux. Report - Vivian Keil
 Consideration of Business
Luncheon:
 Master of Ceremonies - Dale Marxer
 Invocation - Herb Koenig
 Supervisor Awards - Dale Marxer
 President's Award - Dale Marxer
 Drawings - throughout luncheon
 Speaker: Gary Fritz, Water Resources Division, DNRC

LADIES AUXILIARY BREAKFAST - Tuesday, 8 a.m.

Breakfast
Business Meeting
Tour

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 (NO CORPORATION BUSINESS MEETING WAS HELD THIS YEAR)	

BUSINESS SESSION

The 39th Annual Meeting of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts was called to order by President Dale Marxer at 8:30 a.m. on November 12, 1980 at the Outlaw Inn, Kalispell, Montana.

The officers for the coming year are:

President: Dale Marxer
Vice President: Jim Yedlicka
Executive Vice President: Ray Beck
Treasurer: Gladys Hippe
Secretary: Doris Van Voast

The financial report for 1980 was given by Gladys Hippe, Treasurer:

Balance November 1, 1979 \$ 5,656.71

Receipts:

MACD Dues - 1979	\$ 1,023.00
MACD Dues - 1980	25,139.56
PMC Dues - 1979	50.00
PMC Dues - 1980	1,450.00
Interest on Savings	592.93
Associate Memberships	70.00
Soil Survey Grant	4,943.82
Montana Grazing Association	5,500.00
SCS Grant-Soil Scientist Travel	13,000.00
Reimbursements from DNRC & SCS	2,514.55
Northern Tier Pipeline Co.	1,234.04
Convention Receipts	7,873.00
EPA Grant	2,838.00
Western Water Users Found. (postage)	<u>21.15</u>
Total Receipts	<u>66,250.05</u>
	\$71,906.76

Disbursements:

Convention Expenses	6,706.47
Telephone	1,531.18
Supplies	346.97
Printing	1,205.69
Postage	1,391.45
Rent	1,200.00
Repairs - Typewriter	81.50
Equipment - Tel. Answer. Machine	172.14
Dist. Claims for Northern Tier	1,121.86
Soil Survey Travel Claims	1,499.60
Lake Co. CD-Reimb. EPA Grant	449.22
Officers & Directors Expenses	4,830.68
Exec. Vice Pres. Expenses	6,703.67
Salaries	25,302.00
Employee Benefits	2,616.08
SWCD of Mont. Yearly Donation	1,475.00
Contingency Fund	<u>788.19</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>57,421.70</u>
Total Balance Nov. 1, 1980	\$14,485.06

Financial Report (Continued)

Bank Balance- \$2,104.82
SCS Savings Acct.- \$11,109.12
Assn. Savings Acct - \$1,271.12

Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the financial report.

Ray Beck gave the State Office Report, reviewing some of the projects that had been worked on the past year. Ray displayed a stack of some 25-30 reports that had been received in the Association's office most of which call for review and comments. He noted that this was just some of the reports received. He commented on two of the reports: the working draft of the Desertification in the U.S. Status and Issues and on the draft environmental impact statement of the Management of Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. He said that all of these reports were available for review by any of the Conservation District who were interested.

Ray reported on the Washington, D.C. trip made in March 1980. He feels this is a very worthwhile trip and encourages attendance. Some of the agencies visited were: Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife Service, Public Lands Council, Bureau of Reclamation, Extension Service, Congressmen Williams and Marlenee, Senators Melcher and Baucus, National Rifle Association, Water Resources Council, Farmers Home Administration, U.S. Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency and Office of Management & Budget.

As we now will have a new administration, Ray felt it was extremely important that the trip be made in 1981 to renew contacts and make new ones. 1981 is a legislative year for Montana, also. The control of the Montana legislature will change and Ray hopes that the local Conservation Districts will take an interest in legislation affecting the CDs, and will contact their local legislators prior to and during the session.

Ray referred to the workshop held on November 11. This was an excellent session and should be continued as a part of future MACD Conventions. One of the greatest needs seems to be job descriptions of district clerks, administrators and managers. Prior to the convention the CDs had been contacted for their comments and Ray read from one reply that suggested all districts operate on the same calendar year (July 1 - June 30, or whatever dates); need for training sessions for clerical workers; need for promotion programs for clerical workers, step increases/incentive increases; need for clearer understanding of duties and responsibilities to local district and to SCS if the employee divides time between the two agencies.

Ray also reported on the Great Plains contracts, Northern Tier agreements, EPA grant, Western Water Users Program, need for publicity on what a conservation district is and what it does.

Ray discussed briefly the functions of the MACD, which include lobbying at legislature, keeping the Board of Directors and supervisors informed, supplying the general public with information on CDs, and

working with directors of NACD.

The subject of dues to the State Association was discussed - most districts have paid; there were some errors in the assessments made last year and this is being corrected.

Ray urged the Conservation Districts to contact the MACD Office and express their needs and the projects they would like to have pursued.

Dale Marxer gave his President's report stating he felt that the past year had been a good one. The officers had been re-elected for another term. The Executive Board had been most cooperative the past year and they will be meeting during the upcoming legislative session.

Dale reported the annual Convention of NACD held in Houston, Texas in March of 1980 was a worthwhile meeting and noted that the resolutions presented at this national convention were similar to the ones presented at the MACD convention indicating that state and national concerns are the same.

Marxer reported on weed control legislation which will include range improvement practices; a 1080 demonstration given in Great Falls by NACD in October; and a committee appointed to work with the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks on 310 procedures.

Marxer stated that this 39th convention had been a good one. He was pleased with the attendance and active interest taken in all sessions and thanked the Flathead District for their efforts in making the convention such a success.

Marxer thanked the supervisors for their cooperation this past year and urged the CDs to keep sending him copies of their meeting minutes. These kept him well informed of the activities, needs and problems of the districts.

Vivian Keil, President of the Ladies Auxiliary reported that the auxiliary had not been as active as they should have been this past year; however, it was hoped they could get some projects started with emphasis being put on the Youth Education and Urban Education. Mrs. Keil reported on a Youth Encampment held in South Carolina in 1980, being a pilot program, which was very successful. This is for upper classmen (high school). It was hoped the Auxiliary could work on a project for Montana's participation.

Participation in Soil Stewardship Week was good this year and was enjoyed by those who did take part.

Officers: President - Barbara Dion
Vice President - Irene Larson
Secretary - Dodie Teigen

FINANCE COMMITTEEMACD 1981 Budget

I. SALARIES

A. Exec. Vice President	\$15,000
B. Secretary	10,750
C. Part-time Clerical	100
D. Employee Benefits	3,000

II. OFFICE

A. Rent	1,600
B. Telephone	1,700
C. Supplies	600
D. Repairs	100
E. Postage	1,700
F. Furniture & Equipment	50
G. Printing	1,500

III. TRAVEL

A. Exec. Vice President	4,500
B. Association Officers	5,000

IV. LADIES AUXILIARY 100

V. NACD DUES 275

VI. AWARDS 100

VII. PLANT MATERIAL CENTER 1,475

VIII. CONTINGENCY & OTHER BENEFITS 500

Total	\$48,050
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MACD Estimated Income - 1981

Cash Balance (Estimated)	\$ 3,375
Mont. Assn. of Grazing Dist.	10,000
Plant Material Assessments	1,475
Dues 1981	27,160
Unpaid 1980 Dues	680
Associate Membership Dues	200
Convention Income	1,000
EPA Grant	800
Soil Survey	3,000
Miscellaneous	360

INCOME	\$48,050
EXPENSES	48,050

Walt Dion moved that the budget be accepted as read. Motion seconded and carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Continued)

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS the District has an increased work load and has had no increase in county funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts request that the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation distribute the state monies the same as now: 75% to the District and 25% for special projects.

Walt Dion moved to accept this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS, some districts in the State of Montana cannot get adequate funding from the present 1.5 mill limitation Conservation Districts can levy; and

WHEREAS, local funding can be acquired and controlled at a local level; and

WHEREAS, without adequate funding the district can't perform adequately.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts go on record of being in favor of the state legislation raising the present 1.5 mill levy limit to 3 mills.

Walt Dion moved to accept this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS the acreage of a county is not necessarily a measure of the need for or application of conservation practices.

BE IT RESOLVED that the funds provided by the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation to Conservation Districts be allocated 25% on the basis of acreage and 75% on the basis of need.

Resolution killed.

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS, the workload of District Conservation supervisors is progressively increasing; and

WHEREAS, supervisors are not able to complete this work at scheduled meetings to their satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, District supervisors have had to employ part time employees to accomplish this work; and

WHEREAS, relative to the Memorandum of Understanding that the district supervisors signed in which supervisors will attempt

FINANCE COMMITTEE (continued)

within statutory and funding limitations to carry out their duties; and

WHEREAS, the funds in many districts are depleted, and not sufficient at the 1.5 mill levy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation establish some method to procure additional finances for districts that are underfinanced.

Walt Dion moved to accept this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 5

WHEREAS conservation districts responsibilities and workloads are increasing; and

WHEREAS conservation districts are limited to 1.5 mills of county taxes; and

WHEREAS the productivity of conservation districts is not directly related to the district's acreage.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that section 76-15-502 of the Montana Codes Annotated, Chapter 15 for Conservation Districts be changed to allow 50% on need and 50% on acreage to conservation districts.

Resolution Killed.

Resolution No. 6

WHEREAS Conservation District funding at the local level is dependent on a tax on all real property within the district; and

WHEREAS County Assessors and the Department of Revenue do not have good current figures of taxable values in all cases for each Conservation District; and

WHEREAS Conservation District taxable valuations are necessary for each Conservation District Board of Supervisors to use as a basis for determining their budgets for the following year; and

WHEREAS the Montana Association of Conservation Districts base their dues structure on taxable valuations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts request the Montana Department of Revenue to compile an updated real property valuation each year and provide this information to the Conservation Districts Division of the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation for distribution to Conservation Districts.

Walt Dion moved to accept this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Continued)

WHEREAS there is a need to improve the long term financing of conservation effort in the United States.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts support the "Proposal for a Conservation Trust" and that this proposal be submitted to the National Association of Conservation Districts with a request to pursue legislation for its implementation.

(Proposal for a Conservation Trust)

Government receipts from sale of non-renewable resources -- oil, gas (outer continental shelf), surplus federal property, motorboat fuel tax -- are skyrocketing. Currently, this Fund is being used to purchase parkland and wildlife refuges, additions to the National Forests, recreation additions to BLM lands.

Across the nation conservation needs/resource protection needs are skyrocketing.

- * topsoil erosion on the nation's farms is 25% greater today than in the Dust Bowl years: agricultural scientists estimate productivity will decline significantly in coming years in major portions of America's cropland if erosion losses are not reduced. Yet the USDA's conservation budget is less this year than last year.
- * pollution of watercourses from non-point runoff is ruining water quality in over 70% of the river basins of the country: The General Accounting Office warns that clean water goals will not be achieved if this pollution is not controlled. Yet non-point pollution control assistance totals only \$85 million of the federal budget. (\$35 million EPA's 208 program: \$50 million EPA/USDA Rural Clean Water Program (FY 1980))
- * The nation's 300 million acres of "non-Industrial Private Forests" (NIPF) are only 35% as productive as they could be with proper forest management: The Forest Service estimates a doubling in demand for wood fibers by 2030 -- yet cooperative forestry assistance programs of the USDA, the principal federal outreach to private woodlot owners totals a paltry \$20 million.

Major national groups are focusing on these resource protection needs -- League of Women Voters, National Audubon, National Wildlife Federation, Society of American Foresters, American Forestry Association.

Perhaps a larger share of the government's receipts from sale of nonrenewable resources should be devoted to improving the resource base and quality of our renewable resources -- the water, the forests, the cropland, the wetlands. The Land and Water Conservation Fund should be expanded to meet these resource needs.

So as not to interfere with the worthy aspirations of the constituency that wants L&WC Funds used only to purchase parkland,

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Continued)

there could be a separate "special" fund for resource support assistance. In addition to the \$900 million that now goes to the trust fund, an additional \$900 million of the income to the federal government from sale of oil, gas (and minerals?) would go into this special fund.

This would not mean an increase in the amount paid by purchasers of oil, gas and minerals -- only a diversion of an additional portion of these increasing receipts to the special resource assistance effort.

The present conservation and resource assistance programs -- e.g., Cooperative Forestry Assistance, Agriculture Conservation Program, Great Plains Program, (The Great Plains Program is a good example of shortfall in the face of need. Authorized at \$25 million (soon to be \$50 million) it provides cost-sharing assistance to farmers in the ten Great Plains states for installing conservation practices. This program has serviced 4 million acres. However, thousands of farmers have applied for assistance but have received little help. Seventy-five million acres in the Great Plains are in need of conservation treatment.) Rural Clean Water Program, Water Bank Program -- would continue at present, hopefully increased appropriated levels. There would be no separate outreach programs for disbursement of these special funds. The receipts in this special fund would flow to designated state soil and water conservation agencies as a supplemental source of money that is dependable, i.e. in the nature of payments from a trust.

The basic concept in this proposal is let's use some of our income from the sale of publicly-owned finite resources to improve the quality of our nation's renewable resources, those resources on which we will have to depend long after the nation's finite resource supplies are exhausted. We don't ever want to reach the point where we are switching from exhausted finite resource use to renewable resource use only to find these renewable resources have been wasted.

The value of a dependable source of funds for resource assistance work is that such programs must be continuing, steady, incremental in nature, if they are to have maximum resource supporting benefit.

Walt Dion moved to accept this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 8

WHEREAS Conservation Districts are in need of funds to properly finance district operations and renewable resource projects; and

WHEREAS the coal tax severance funds are a commendable source of funds for district operations and renewable resource development.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the legislature be requested to assign a portion of these funds to the Conservation District Division, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, for distribution to Districts.

Walt Dion moved to accept this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS the existing USDA, SCS engineering standards and specifications governing hazard Class A embankment ponds require principle spillways, particularly pipe conduit; and

WHEREAS, existing structures without principle spillways indicate a past successful project life; and

WHEREAS, under certain circumstances, cooperators emphatically reject alternate structures; and

WHEREAS, topographic and geologic conditions may provide for a safe and more economic site for pond installation over other alternative structures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts recommend that an effort be made by the National Association of Conservation Districts and the Soil Conservation Service for the removal of the general requirement of principle spillway installation, and that the SCS District Conservationists determine the need and feasibility for principle spillway installation of hazard Class A embankment ponds in isolated locations with drainage areas five (5) square miles or less, effective height of 15 feet, or less, and height times storage of 500 acre feet squared, or less.

Ron Jackson moved for the adoption of this resolution. Seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS Conservation Districts are responsible for approving and monitoring 310 permits on all perennial streams in Montana; and

WHEREAS much confusion has come about whether a particular stream is or is not declared perennial by a Conservation District.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts encourage all the districts to declare and record the perennial streams in their district so that future discrepancies can be solved quickly and efficiently.

Resolution killed.

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS, coal tax monies in the form of Renewable Resource development loans for rangeland are available and working with moderate success; and

WHEREAS, the State Rangeland Resource Program was implemented and acted as some of the basis for the loan program; and

DISTRICT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, an operator with mixed rangeland, cropland, hayland, pastureland can only get loan money for rangeland development; and

WHEREAS, the success of conservation applications of the total operating unit depends on funding available for conservation practices for non-rangeland practices.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a loan program using non-renewable resource monies be developed to include all conservation practices to be applied by the total conservation plan for the operation concept. Options could be to include the mixed land unit as a separate priority on existing renewable resource program by expanding it, or by setting up a resource loan program separately for a total operating unit.

Ron Jackson moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS State law requires County Commissioners to consider roadside seeding of newly constructed roads, but it does not require such roadsides to be seeded; and

WHEREAS, some counties are not doing this seeding even in areas of severe erosion, thus contributing to sediment and silt problems.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts bring this to the attention of the legislature so that adequate measures be taken by local administrators to be sure that roadsides are protected on newly constructed roads.

Ron Jackson moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 5

WHEREAS the future of agricultural conservation is becoming more important all the time; and

WHEREAS the Soil Conservation Service is known for its ability to provide sound technical assistance to conservation districts; and

WHEREAS there is a growing need for prompt, sound and expedient technical assistance to the landowner.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that every effort be made to retain and strengthen Soil Conservation Service assistance at the district level.

Ron Jackson moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 6

WHEREAS Soil Conservation Service field office job approval authority on streams has been essentially withdrawn in Montana; and

WHEREAS, some conservation districts carry a heavy load of stream work referrals; and

WHEREAS, it further lengthens a cumbersome application process to have all projects reviewed in Bozeman and Portland.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Soil Conservation Service field offices be given more job authority on stream work.

Ron Jackson moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 7

WHEREAS the Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service's LTA Program was established to encourage long range resource management planning; and

WHEREAS the cost-share rate under this program is equal to their regular ACP Program which provides no financial incentive; and

WHEREAS Long range planning not only provides for a secure resource base but reduces the money lost through short term planning.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts request the National Association of Conservation Districts to encourage the ASCS National Committee to provide a greater planning and financial incentive by increasing the LTA Annual cost-share limit from the present \$3,500 to \$5,000 per individual and also increase the National ACP appropriation and State allocation to properly fund this program.

Ron Jackson moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 8

WHEREAS, the cost of applying conservation practices has, along with everything else, escalated over the years; and

WHEREAS, the \$25,000 limitation on Great Plains contracts limits the amount of work that can be done by any one producer due to the current inflationary prices.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts recommend that the National Association of Conservation Districts Great Plains Committee promote the current limitation per contract be increased from \$25,000 to \$40,000 and the current limitation of \$7,500 for irrigation practices be raised to \$10,000 to encourage more producers to participate in the Great Plains Program and apply needed conservation practices to their lands.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Ron Jackson moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 9

WHEREAS the cost of applying conservation practices has, along with everything else, escalated over the years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts recommend to the National Association of Conservation Districts Great Plains Committee that the current limitation be removed for irrigation practices, to encourage more producers to participate in the Great Plains Program and apply needed conservation practices to their lands.

Ron Jackson moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS, Conservation Districts throughout the State of Montana have accepted the responsibility of administrating and carrying out the 208 program in accordance with their Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) and the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (DHES); and

WHEREAS, the Statewide 208 Newsletter dated July 1980 states that "Long range water-quality plans from the 59 Conservation Districts throughout the state are flowing in for approval by the DHES and DNRC"; and

WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding which the Conservation Districts have with the DNRC and DHES do not give them the authority to either approve or disapprove the water-quality plans developed and approved by the conservation districts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts go on record suggesting that the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation and the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences review the Memorandum of Understanding and cooperate with the Conservation Districts in improving and carrying out their responsibilities with the 208 program.

Resolution Killed.

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS, in compliance with the Water Quality Act the Conservation Districts were asked to submit water quality plans for the 208 Water Quality Program; and

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, many districts, have developed those Water Quality Plans; and

WHEREAS, it is time to implement action on those plans; and

WHEREAS, there is limited funding available from the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, many other sources of funding do not apply to or are inadequate for potential projects in Montana.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts, the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation; and the Water Quality Bureau of the Department of Health & Environmental Sciences work together to get funding from the State of Montana to give to the Conservation Districts who are ready, able, interested, and willing to implement these plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts inform the Environmental Protection Agency of the true paucity of funds and request the EPA to redirect their funds in part toward implementing corrective actions.

James Yedlicka moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS, the construction of irrigation reservoirs in the State of Monana is practically at a stand still because of high construction and interest costs; and

WHEREAS, there is a real need to store the waters of the State of Montana for beneficial use; and

WHEREAS, off-stream storage sites in relatively unproductive lands are available; and

WHEREAS, a tremendous potential exists for the development of our water resources for other purposes as well, including hydro-power and recreational uses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts support legislative action establishing a comprehensive water development program in Montana, using funds available from the coal severance tax and water project revenues, which would provide grants and loans to individuals, local governments, and the state government to develop our water resources.

James Yedlicka moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS a significant effect of instream water reservations granted by the Board of Natural Resources in the Yellowstone Basin is to attempt to guarantee that hugh quantities of Montana water flow out of Montana at the North Dakota border; and

WHEREAS this water, once put to beneficial use downstream, will never again be available to Montana agriculture; and

WHEREAS the granted instream reservations frequently involve more water than there is in the basin during the irrigating season.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts draft and support legislation requiring instream reservation holders to develop off-stream storage for late season infusion into streams in order to maintain the instream flow to the extent of the instream reservations, after prior existing water rights have been satisfied; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such legislation include a clause that defines diversion for such off-stream storage as an instream use of water such that those instream reservations granted by the Board could be used to fill and maintain these storage sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these off-stream storage sites should be made available, where practicable, for multiple use including stock water, wildlife habitat, recreation and, in years not entirely needed for late season infusion, to maintain instream flow for irrigation.

James Yedlicka moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 5

WHEREAS, the existing procedure for notifying land owners of pending water permit applications does not provide for notifying landowners who are buying land by contract for deed; and

WHEREAS, the landowner selling the land does not always notify the Contract for Deed purchaser; and

WHEREAS, this can cause an imposition on existing water right holders.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts request that all Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) water permit applicants be asked to provide DNRC the names and addresses of all current landowners (including Contract for Deed) that are possibly affected by proposed water development on the minor drainage involved or at least landowners surrounding the proposed development (using same procedure as on SB-310 streambank

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

reservation permits), and that DNRC send photocopies of permit applications to local Conservation District office for information and alerting of proposed projects in the Conservation District involved.

James Yedlicka moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 6

WHEREAS the Conservation Districts along the Yellowstone River Basin have been granted water reservations by the Board of Natural Resources for beneficial use by agriculture; and

WHEREAS the Conservation Districts along other major drainages are now or will soon be applying for water reservations; and

WHEREAS there are no guidelines nor is there any clear understanding by these Districts on how to develop these reservations in terms of procedures for actually applying for and putting reservation waters to beneficial use; and

WHEREAS given the lack of guidelines and given water development deadlines stated in the order of the Board, an unmanageable situation exists for the Districts; and

WHEREAS there are insignificant funds provided for the development of Conservation District's water reservations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts urge the Board of Natural Resources & Conservation to clarify and establish guidelines for the reservation procedure as it applies to Conservation District reservations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts draft and support legislation giving Conservation Districts the funds necessary to administer, defend, and develop their water reservations, and to make the water readily available to the local agricultural community.

James Yedlicka moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 7

WHEREAS there is continuing support and financing from several state, federal and private agencies to resolve the Muddy Creek erosion problem in Montana; and

WHEREAS, this project has been named as number one resource problem in the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS a Project Coordinator has been hired to give direction to and coordinate the activities of the project and various agencies involved in the project area.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts give continued support for the project and request the State Legislature to give financial support for a successful completion of this project.

James Yedlicka moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS rangeland noxious weed infestation is a primary problem in numerous counties across the state; and

WHEREAS especially leafy spurge and spotted knapweed are spreading at an epidemic rate and infestation by these weeds significantly decreases the economic base of Montana agriculture, the state's number one industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts draft and urge support for legislation establishing a state cost-share program for the chemical and/or biological eradication of these weeds, which program would be administered locally either by conservation districts or by weed districts.

Leonard Peterson, Acting Chairman, moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS one and one half million acres of the best agricultural lands in Montana were irreversibly lost to urban growth over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, urban growth is growing at an increasing rate putting even greater stress on our agricultural base to produce food and fiber for Montana, the nation and the world and threatens Montana's #1 industry.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts establish a sub-committee for preserving agricultural lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of this subcommittee are to: investigate alternatives for preserving agricultural lands and recommend ways to implement desired alternatives in Montana by the 1983 Legislative session.

Leonard Peterson moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS saline seeps are rapidly growing and consuming a considerable amount of our prime farmland; and

WHEREAS we as farmers and ranchers need all the help we can get with saline seep.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts support the Triangle Area Saline Seep Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts, along with the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health & Environmental Sciences/Water Quality Bureau, request the needed funding from the Montana Legislature to continue the program of the Triangle Area Conservation District for Saline Seep.

Leonard Peterson moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

RANGE, FORESTRY & PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS many acres of public land are under consideration as wilderness areas; and

WHEREAS the amount of private land that remains in a primitive condition is decreasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS there is a small but vocal minority who strongly support the change of some public lands to wilderness designated land.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts support the intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and that each wilderness be justly evaluated on an individual basis as to the effects on a local, state and national level, and that environmental, social and economic factors be the basis for the evaluation.

Resolution killed. (See Resolution No. 8)

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS several Wilderness Areas are being considered by the Bureau of Land Management in Eastern Montana; and

WHEREAS Soil Conservation District projects and programs are not allowed in Wilderness Areas; and

WHEREAS conservation programs such as soil erosion, proper grazing, water development, fencing, etc. are non-existent in wilderness areas; and

WHEREAS, this constitutes hardships on surrounding farms and ranches and destroys conservation practices.

RANGE, FORESTRY & PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts go on record as being opposed to the establishment of Wilderness Area 715, or any other Wilderness Area in Eastern Montana.

Resolution abolished in favor of Resolution No. 8.

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS several parcels of land lying within the boundaries of Fergus County have been designated as wilderness study areas; and

WHEREAS there have been past evidences of the area having been inhabited by man such as fences, roads, reservoirs, etc.; and

WHEREAS there is still regular travel in the area; and

WHEREAS these evidences of man's encroachment on this area are in sharp conflict with wilderness requirements; and

WHEREAS these federal lands have been in the past and presently are being used under the multiple use concept whereby agricultural interests are being served together with wildlife management.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts request that the proposed areas not be designated as a wilderness study area.

Resolution abolished in favor of Resolution No. 8.

Resolution No. 4.

WHEREAS a tract of land in Valley County comprising 59,112 acres has been designated as a wilderness study area known as the Bitter Creek Wilderness Area; and

WHEREAS there are numerous past evidences of the area having been inhabited by man such as fences, roads, reservoirs, etc.; and

WHEREAS there is still regular travel in the area for the purpose of managing livestock, hunting, fishing, camping, etc.; and

WHEREAS these evidences of man's encroachment on this area are in sharp conflict with wilderness requirement; and

WHEREAS these federal lands have been in the past and presently are being used under the multiple use concept, whereby agricultural interests are being served side by side with wildlife management.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts request the Bureau of Land Management that the Bitter Creek Wilderness Area not be designated as a wilderness study area.

Resolution abolished in favor of Resolution No. 8

RANGE, FORESTRY & PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 5

WHEREAS the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks publically condemns 2,4-D and other herbicides without basis in fact (for example, front page, Billings Gazette, May 28, 1980); and

WHEREAS the Department does not use herbicides on lands it owns, even though many of these lands, especially fishing access sites, have noxious weeds on them which noxious weeds spread beyond Department lands thereby impacting neighbors; and

WHEREAS noxious weeds are detrimental to the economy of Montana, which economy directly and indirectly provides the biggest portion of the budget for the Department; and

WHEREAS the lack of control of noxious weeds is in violation of Montana weed law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts inform the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks that its attempts to improve landowner relations are overshadowed by anti-pesticide publicity and by a lack of weed control on Department lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts inform the Department that it is in violation of Montana law by not controlling noxious weeds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts draft and promote legislation requiring public landowners to fund and carry out weed control on their lands.

John Vanisko moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 6

WHEREAS noxious weeds are continuing to be a serious problem; and

WHEREAS public highways and roadways are a prime proliferating source of noxious weeds; and

WHEREAS little effort is made by Public Roadway Administrators to control noxious weeds especially in areas of new construction; and

WHEREAS there happens to be a loss of awareness of the seriousness of roadways as a source of noxious weeds and the need to control these areas for an effective over-all weed control program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts strive thru legislation, or other means, to bring about greater awareness of the public roadway source of noxious weeds and the need for more adequate control measures.

RANGE, FORESTRY & PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

John Vanisko moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 7

WHEREAS Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) provisions prevent the use of program funds for control of noxious weeds because it is considered a production anented practice; and

WHEREAS loss of good land to noxious weeds forces an operator to breakup, farm and cultivate the less desirable land, thus increasing erosion, sedimentation, and runoff.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts request the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service to re-examine its position to allow more discretion in use of ACP funds on noxious weed under closely controlled conditions.

John Vanisko moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 8

WHEREAS many areas of public land in Montana are under consideration as wilderness areas; and

WHEREAS some of this public land is presently managed under the multiple-use concept, thereby benefiting many groups of people in areas from recreation to agriculture; and

WHEREAS the change from a multiple-use area to a wilderness area designation will drastically reduce the scope of utilization of the public land from access for everyone to access only for those physically able to walk in or to ride horseback into these lands.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts do what it can to limit wilderness area designations in Montana.

John Vanisko moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 9

WHEREAS, lessees not of Districts or Association, have made an effort to implement some of the generally agreed ideas of range improvement or at least maintenance by proper livestock use, and game grazing through water developments, cross fences, and rest and rotation use of range resources.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts ask for accelerated action in Range Management and Range Improvements by cooperation with the Grazing Districts and Associations and members thereof.

RANGE, FORESTRY & PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

Resolution killed - due to lack of information.

Resolution No. 10

WHEREAS a great many Conservation District Supervisors, Cooperators, and friends of conservation, own land surrounded by the Public Domain in Montana; and

WHEREAS to properly utilize these lands in their daily operation of their farms and ranches access is necessary; and

WHEREAS, Court Action and Attorney General's opinions have been filed restricting the access to these private owned lands, within the Public Lands; and

WHEREAS the outcome of these efforts may lead to a decision that landowners need not be given access; and

WHEREAS Senator Melcher has seen fit in his wisdom to attempt to correct this situation by amending the pending Alaskan Lands Bill in the following manner:

Sec 1323.CA, notwithstanding any other provision of Law, and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Agriculture may prescribe. The Secretary shall provide such access to non Federally Owned Land within the boundaries of the National Forest System as the Secretary deems adequate to secure to the owners the reasonable use and enjoyment thereof providing that such owner comply with the rules and regulations applicable to ingress and egress to or from the National Forest System.

CA similar section for Bureau of Land Management Lands is also covered as part (6) of the amendment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts go on record in strong support of Senator John Melcher's Amendment; Montana Congressional Delegation and other affected groups and individuals to be aware of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts' feelings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts offer their assistance to Senator Melcher in his efforts.

John Vanisko moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 11

WHEREAS the Rangeland Improvement Loan Program of the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation has been successful.

RANGE, FORESTRY & PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts support the Rangeland Improvement Loan Program and recommend to the Montana State Legislature that the Program be funded as requested for 1981.

John Vanisko moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS only three states provide less financial support, on a percentage basis, than Montana for Cooperative Extension Service; and

WHEREAS the Montana Cooperative Extension Service has less staff resources than any other state; and

WHEREAS the low Montana Extension salaries has resulted in a loss of 16 county agents and state specialists in the last two years, ten of whom went to similar jobs in states paying substantially higher salaries; and

WHEREAS many vacant positions are not filled because the salaries are too low to attract qualified applicants; and

WHEREAS the average salary of Extension specialists is over \$3,000 below that of teaching faculty at Montana State University even though both groups are officed on the same campus, hold academic rank, and are professional educators; and

WHEREAS for the past four years the Old West Regional Commission has funded the AGNET program for the Cooperative Extension Service and unless funded by the 1981 State of Montana legislature will become a defunct program; and

WHEREAS the effects of this situation profoundly and adversely affect potential agricultural income in Montana and thus the tax base.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts embark on a campaign urging strong support of the budget request of the Montana Cooperative Extension Service for the 1981-82 biennium.

Herb Karst moved for the adoption of this Resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS Agriculture is the number one industry throughout the entire Hi-Line Area of Montana; and

WHEREAS the nine-county North Central area represents by far the largest crop producing area in the entire State of Montana; and

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

WHEREAS soil and climatic conditions vary within this principal crop producing area known as the Triangle; and

WHEREAS the Upper Triangle is rapidly becoming a major production area for certified and other quality small grain seedstocks; and

WHEREAS timely, well-managed agronomic research relevant to conditions at hand is necessary for on-going progress toward further improved crop production efficiency, improved crop quality; and

WHEREAS such necessary agronomic research beneficially affects the over \$250 million gross value of crops produced in this nine-county Triangle area; and

WHEREAS research benefits resulting in only a one-bushel increase in yield of all small grains in the Triangle area will produce an increase in excess of \$7.5 million to the area's and state's agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS funding of the agronomy program at Northern Agricultural Research Center has long been grossly inadequate; and

WHEREAS the single professional position in agronomy research at Northern Agricultural Research Center is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS the recently-established Western Triangle Research Center facility, created in view of vastly differing soil and climatic conditions in the two distinct regions of the Triangle, does not reflect the conditions encountered in the Northern Triangle region; and

WHEREAS on-going research programs in agronomy established in 1915 are in existence at Northern Agricultural Research Center.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts petition the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, the College of Agriculture-MSU and the Montana legislature to fill all current vacancies in research positions at Agriculture Experiment Research Centers, expand the programs as necessary and provide funding commensurate with the needs affiliated with the conduct of meaningful research efforts.

Herb Karst moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS agricultural herbicides are under frequent attacks from various fronts including environmental groups, state agencies and individuals; and

WHEREAS the appeal of these attacks is often emotional without basis in fact; and

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

WHEREAS Montana agriculture, in order to maintain efficiency and economic stability, depends on the use of herbicides both on crops and rangeland; and

WHEREAS the U.S. economy is dependent on herbicides in order to maintain low food prices, prices that would skyrocket without herbicides; and

WHEREAS most agricultural herbicides have been determined to be safe, when properly used, by various scientific groups and government agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Montana Department of Agriculture.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts embark on a sustained endeavor to encourage the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, the Montana State University Cooperative Extension Service and the Montana Department of Agriculture to bring about frequent publicity on the safety of these herbicides, and their benefit to agriculture and the economy, and further to fight adverse unfactual publicity through timely and to the point rebuttals by qualified personnel.

Herb Karst moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS it has been noted that the State of Montana has erosion problems on some of its lands; and

WHEREAS the State Land Commission with assistance from Conservation Districts are taking effective action to solve these erosion problems.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts go on record commending the State Land Commission for their increased interest in applying conservation practices to their land and for taking affirmative action on the requests for conservation application activities.

Herb Karst moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 5

WHEREAS the Rangeland Resource Loan Program was created by the last legislature; and

WHEREAS the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation was charged with the responsibility and administration of this loan program to farmers and ranchers; and

WHEREAS these funds, provided by the coal tax severance fund and made available for deserving projects pertaining to Rangeland Resources at no interest, should be continued and expanded.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts go on record as commending the Montana State Legislature for making these funds available for this purpose and the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation for administering this program in a fair and equitable manner.

Herb Karst moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 6

WHEREAS weeds are an ever pressing problem throughout the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS the Milwaukee Railroad is abandoning miles of railroad lines without reclamation.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts petition the Montana Legislature to require that the top of the railroad grade where ties are pulled be leveled so that farmers and ranchers, county crews and other maintenance personnel can travel these right-of-ways to spray for noxious weeds to prevent their spreading.

Herb Karst moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

YOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS the local Rangeland Resource Committee requests the State Rangeland Resource Committee take greater participation in State Youth Range Camps held throughout Montana; and

WHEREAS the State Rangeland Resource Committee should help with the selection of where the State Youth Range Camp will be held each year and give statewide support, and contact appropriate technical agencies to become more specific as to committing personnel at an early date; and

WHEREAS each district set up a Rangeland Resource Committee for the purpose of contributing ideas to the district's sponsoring the State Youth Range Camps each year.

BE IT RESOLVED that the location of the State Range Camps be annually rotated between West, Central and East portions of the State.

Cecil Weeding moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS Montana is the fourth largest state in the nation, ranks forty-eighth in population density, and is seventh in terms of agricultural income per capita; and

WHEREAS Montana agriculture generates approximately 40 percent of the gross income in the state while in turn less than 5 percent of the state budget appropriations reflect state-level support of agricultural programs; and

WHEREAS in spite of agriculture's dominant role in the state's economy, compared to other states, the needs of agriculture, particularly in fields of research and extension education, have been sadly neglected as only three states provide less financial support than Montana on a percentage basis for cooperative funding of the Extension Service system (West Virginia, New York and Massachusetts); and

WHEREAS the inability of Montana's Extension Service and Experiment Station to adequately respond to the needs of agriculture is directly related to lack of state support and staff resources; and

WHEREAS further hardships have been encountered in both the Experiment Station and Extension Service through the loss of significant numbers of outstanding personnel due to average salary levels being among the lowest in the nation; and

WHEREAS position vacancies created through resignation of staff members seeking higher salaries with extension organizations in other states and/or private industry, require undue delay in filling so as to meet 5 percent salary savings mandated by the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS skyrocketing operational costs common to the plight of the current total economy have been offset only by modest biennium increases as small as 4 percent have left the research and extension functions with budget expenditure power less than that of a decade ago.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts petition the Montana legislature for restored adequate funding within the agricultural research and extension line items of the Land Grant College and Montana University System budgets for the 1981-82 biennium.

Charles Rein moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station with headquarters at Montana State University is the poorest funded state experiment station in any of the agricultural states; and

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

WHEREAS the largest Montana industry is suffering from low production and efficiency and increased production costs largely because the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station has not been provided with the necessary resources to carry out the agricultural research and development to keep this Montana industry competitive in the market place; and

WHEREAS none of the professional researchers has a state supported technician to assist with research projects thus allowing more thorough research and many more projects; and

WHEREAS funding is so poor that researchers must generally only purchase used equipment that is nearly always outdated and soon obsolete; and

WHEREAS this poor funding provides a low morale factor in MAES, and further provides little attraction (let alone funds) with which to attract good researchers; and

WHEREAS any income derived from experiment station operations is channelled back into the state general fund where its identity is lost such that MAES receives not even the ability to partially finance itself; and

WHEREAS for each of hundreds of unresearched and unsolved problems of Montana agriculture, each passing year without solution represents a missed opportunity, which translates to millions of dollars of lost income annually, not to mention tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, for example, there is no variety testing program, no plant breeding program and no soil fertility research in Montana for sunflowers which are being pushed out of the Red River Valley by diseases and into Montana by sunflower seed companies; and

WHEREAS, for example, there is no variety testing or plant breeding program in Montana for corn, or beans, or faba beans, or peas, or lentils; and

WHEREAS, for example, there's no statewide program for the development of cereal-legume rotations to decrease the need for nitrogen and lessen erosion; and

WHEREAS, for example, there's no comprehensive research program to determine the available phosphorus, or sulfur, or zinc, or boron, or iron, or manganese, or magnesium, or molybdenum status of Montana soils; and

WHEREAS, for example, there's limited research being done to determine the optimum irrigation requirements for any Montana crops; and

WHEREAS, for example, there's limited research being done to determine best management practices to be used with saline irrigation waters; and

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, for example, there are few projects to evaluate range or forest fertilization practices; and

WHEREAS, for example, there's limited research to evaluate the effectiveness of commercial inoculum for any Montana legume crops; and

WHEREAS this incomplete agronomy list of examples does not even consider research inadequacies in animal husbandry, breeding nutrition or health, plant diseases, vegetable crops, farm power or mechanics, irrigation sprinkler systems, insect or weed control, synfuel production, etc.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts initiate a timely publicity campaign decrying these inadequacies, before the next legislative session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts draft and support legislation drastically increasing the funding for Montana Agricultural Experiment Stations, especially in the area of technicians, operating funds, and new research; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts include appropriate clauses in this proposed legislation which would give income received by Montana Agricultural Experiment Stations operations back to MAES in addition to its regular appropriations.

Resolution killed - See Resolution No. 3

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS agriculture is the largest industry within the State of Montana and the Agricultural Experiment Station located at Montana State University in Bozeman has lacked the necessary funds and manpower to carry out agricultural research and development to keep Montana competitive in the market place; and

WHEREAS the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station is the poorest funded state experiment station in any of the agricultural states; and

WHEREAS funding is so poor that researchers must generally only purchase used equipment that is nearly always outdated and soon obsolete; and

WHEREAS this poor funding provides a low morale factor in the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and provides little attraction with which to acquire good researchers; and

WHEREAS any income derived from Experiment Station operations is channeled back into the state general fund where its identity is lost; and

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

WHEREAS for each of hundreds of unresearched and unsolved problems of Montana agriculture, each passing year without solution represents a missed opportunity, which translates to millions of dollars of lost income annually, not to mention tax revenue; and

WHEREAS many areas of research are suffering due to a lack of a testing program and plant breeding program for items such as sunflowers, corn, beans, faba beans, peas, lentils, etc; and

WHEREAS there is an inadequate program for the development of cereal-legume rotations to decrease the need for nitrogen and lessen erosion; and

WHEREAS there is limited research being done to determine the optimum irrigation requirements for any Montana crop nor to determine best management practices to be used with saline irrigation waters; and

WHEREAS there are few projects to evaluate range or forest fertilization practices; and

WHEREAS research inadequacies exist in so many areas that they are too numerous to mention (animal husbandry, breeding, nutrition or health, plant diseases, vegetable crops, farm power or mechanics, irrigation sprinkler systems, insect or weed control, synfuel production, etc.).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts initiate a timely campaign decrying these inadequacies before the next legislative session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts support legislation materially increasing the funding for MAES, especially in the area of technicians, operating funds, and new research; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts support legislation which would give income received by MAES operations back to MAES in addition to its regular appropriations.

Charles Rein moved to adopt this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS the Federal Government and the State of Montana do support and fund experiment stations throughout the state; and

WHEREAS most of the data, information and results directly benefit the farmers and ranchers of the State of Montana and throughout the Nation.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that more funding be appropriated for these facilities to step up and support their much needed work which can not only benefit the farmer and rancher of our State but in turn prosper the economy of our nation.

Charles Rein moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS mining interest is growing in Montana especially by stream dredging; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Districts are responsible for protection of Montana's streams through the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act; and

WHEREAS, many conservation district supervisors are not familiar with the stream dredging equipment and techniques and cannot, therefore, adequately assess the impacts or recommend project operations that will reduce stream impacts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts request the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, Conservation Districts Division, to research the various stream dredging methods and their potential impacts on streams, recommend standards on dredging in consultation with other agencies and individuals knowledgeable in this area, and inform the conservation district supervisors by January 1, 1981.

Jack Perkins, Acting Chairman, moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS the Department of State Lands is responsible for permitting miners in all Montana Streams; and

WHEREAS Conservation Districts are responsible for approving and monitoring 310 permits on Montana streams; and

WHEREAS neither the State Lands nor the Conservation Districts have the personnel, time, or proper financing to inspect and monitor all the streams in Montana.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts encourage individual districts to cooperate with the Department of State Lands by notifying the Department of mine-related 310 applications and to invite a State Lands inspector to be on the 310 inspection team.

Jack Perkins moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS, increasing mineral prices have made it lucrative for individuals to disturb streambed and banks through various mining methods; and

WHEREAS, stream mining activities cause water quality problems and destroy fish habitat and often create stream channel conditions which cause unnecessary streambed and channel erosions; and

WHEREAS, the majority of miners do not realize nor understand the many permits necessary to mine in Montana streams; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Districts are responsible for the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act permits(310) required for most mining activities in Montana streams; and

WHEREAS impacts to the streams and adjacent lands can often be minimized by recommendations made during issuance of each permit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts initiate legislation creating a Renewable Resource funded clearing house in DNRC that would:

- 1) Provide information relative to all permit requirements;
 - 2) Act as liaison to unify permit procedures;
 - 3) Reduce duplication of paperwork;
 - 4) Act as a point of contact to improve communication and understanding between the applicant, the involved agencies, and the public;
 - 5) Function as a complaint clearinghouse for the applicant, the involved agencies, and the public; and
 - 6) Issue a final permit that insures total compliance with all Montana laws.
-

Jack Perkins moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 4.

WHEREAS the Hydraulic act currently places jurisdiction of state and local government projects solely under the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department; and

WHEREAS the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department lacks consistent engineering ability to design stable projects and practices; and

WHEREAS this consistent lack of ability has been demonstrated in the Town of Eureka Riverside Park rip-rap project, Lincoln County, Montana.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Committee of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts prepare legislation for the next legislative session, so that the Hydraulic Act of 1949 is incorporated into the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

Resolution Killed. (Resolution No. 4)

Resolution No. 5

WHEREAS rodent control has become increasingly important to people in Montana; and

WHEREAS some counties have implemented a 1080 Rodent Control Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts go on record supporting the continuation and expansion of the 1080 bait program conducted in Montana during the summer of 1981.

Jack Perkins moved to adopt this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

Resolution No. 6

WHEREAS saline seep is a serious growing problem in the Northern Plains Area; and

WHEREAS this problem has environmental impacts resulting in loss of much valuable farmland, pollution of streams and groundwater; and

WHEREAS research has been done that recommends flexible or alternate cropping as a means of preventing and controlling saline seep; and

WHEREAS flexible cropping offers greater economic, soil conservation, and energy conservation benefits; and

WHEREAS there is a need to demonstrate and provide assistance to farmers; and

WHEREAS there is a need for continuing research in the search for alternate crops, tillage systems, chemical fallow, and acceptable farm programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts request the National Association of Conservation Districts to support USDA and EPA programs of research, technical and financial assistance, or any other source.

Jack Perkins moved for the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded and carried.

FURTHER BUSINESS:

President Marxer announced that an invitation had been extended by the Yellowstone, Carbon and Upper Musselshell Conservation Districts to hold the 1981 convention in Billings. A vote was taken and the invitation accepted. (2nd week in November, place to be announced)

There being no further business, President Marxer thanked all those who had participated in the convention and adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Maroney, Acting Secretary

SUPERVISORS AWARDS

- 10 years - David E. Bricker, Fergus County CD
Harvey Peterson, Judith Basin CD
James Bolstad, Sheridan County CD
Lyle Tauck, Carter County CD
Joseph Padden, Carter County CD
Dennis Basta, Dawson County CD
Al Beggar, Wibaux CD
Leon Thrams, Wibaux CD
William Robinson, Lower Musselshell CD
Jim Tomlinson, Deer Lodge Valley CD
Louis Dobrowski, Wibaux CD
Herbert S. Karst, Toole County CD
- 15 years - Lester Nickels, Valley County CD
Floyd Weyer, Wibaux CD
Maynard Loge, Mineral County CD
Harry Dawson, Jefferson Valley CD
- 20 years - Ed Cervenka, Judith Basin CD
Reinhold Straub, Little Beaver CD
Harold Jensen, Little Beaver CD
Ken Schurch, Deer Lodge Valley CD
Wendell Copenhaver, North Powell CD
Roland Mosher, Lewis & Clark CD
Ronald Jackson, Meagher County CD
- 25 years - Ernest Wight, Granite CD
- 30 years - Emmet Blomquist, Beaverhead CD
Art Christensen, Beaverhead CD
- 40 years - Stanley Nelson, Wibaux CD
-

1980 SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS

- First: Mary Liedle, Helena, Montana
Second: Heidi Skaarure, Big Sandy, Montana
Third: Jennifer Myhre, Baker, Montana

GOODYEAR AWARDS PROGRAM

First: Richland County CD
Second: Upper Musselshell CD
Honor District: Cascade County CD

NACD/ALLIS CHALMERS EDUCATION AWARDS

Teachers's Award - Mary Ann Gildroy
Roundup

NEWSLETTER AWARDS

First: Cascade County CD
Second: Big Horn CD
Third: Glacier County CD

CONVENTION REPORT

REGISTRATION:

Members	170
Auxiliary	<u>57</u>
Total -----	227

FUNCTIONS:

Nov. 10

Dinner (Speech Contest)	169
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Nov. 11

Keynote Luncheon	208
Banquet	192

Nov. 12

Closing Luncheon	115
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LADIES AUXILIARY BREAKFAST 32

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

1981

OFFICERS

President	Dale Marxer
Vice President	James Yedlicka
Executive Vice President	Ray Beck
Treasurer	Gladys Hippe
Secretary	Doris Van Voast

DIRECTORS

Area I	Cecil Weeding Oscar Hippe
Area II	John Teigen, Jr. Louis Dobrowski
Area III	Walt Dion Dale Marxer
Area IV	William P. Jones James Yedlicka
Area V	John Vanisko Gordon Sanders
Area VI	Siv Seidensticker Ron Jackson
At Large	Herb Koenig Kenny Nemitz

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

District Operations	Ron Jackson
Resource Cons. & Dev.	Chester Schwend
Water Resources	James Yedlicka
Range, Forestry & Public Lands	John Vanisko
Public Relations	Herb Karst
Youth Education	Cecil Weeding
Research	Charles Rein
Natural Environment & Wildlife	Siv Seidensticker
Finance	Walt Dion
Legislative	Frank Thompson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dale Marxer
Walt Dion
James Yedlicka
Cecil Weeding
Ron Jackson
John Teigen, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Frank Thompson
Ronald Jackson
John Vanisko
Walt Dion
Dale Marxer

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Walt Dion
Siv Seidensticker
Cecil Weeding
Einar Hovland
Lou Dobrowski
John Vanisko

Due to a lack of a quorum, there was no meeting of
the SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF MONTANA, INC.

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Articles of Association of the
Montana Association of Conservation Districts

Adopted December 11, 1972

Revised:

December, 1944; December, 1945
December, 1948; November, 1949
December, 1950; November, 1957
November, 1961; November, 1962
November, 1966; November, 1967
November, 1970; November, 1971
November, 1973; November, 1974
November, 1976; November, 1977
November, 1978

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Montana Association of Conservation Districts. It is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization.

ARTICLE II

Objects

This Association is organized to plan, promote, and consummate a comprehensive system of soil and water conservation through conservation districts for the entire state of Montana. To that end it shall cooperate with the State Conservation Commission and other organizations working for the same objective on either an area, statewide, regional or national basis.

It shall exchange information relating to the administration and operation of conservation districts and otherwise promote their welfare and that of the people therein, promote the interest and activities of civil, educational and other organizations in soil and water conservation and erosion control and otherwise aid in the prevention and control of soil and water erosion and the efficient use and conservation of soil and water resources.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Each supervisor, either appointed or elected, of a conservation district, created under the provision of the Montana Conservation District Law is a member of this Association. When a member ceases to be a supervisor of a conservation district, his membership shall expire, except if he is a director or officer in the

Area or State Association, he shall continue as a member until his term of office expires.

(a) This Association welcomes individuals and business organizations as non-voting members. Dues for such affiliate memberships will be ten dollars per year for individuals and one hundred dollars per year for business organizations, corporations and government bureaus and agencies. Dues paid for the year after July 1st will be established at one-half the regular amount for the first year. A life membership for individuals will be established for \$100. All amounts above established rates will be accepted as donations.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

- a) Regular meetings shall be held once a year at a time and place to be selected by the Districts at the annual meeting. In selecting the time and place of meeting, each district shall be entitled to one vote. Each member shall be given at least ten days advance notice of the time and place of the meeting by the Association Secretary.
- b) Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or a majority of the Directors. Notice of such special meeting shall state the time, place, and purpose of the meeting, and shall be mailed by the secretary to each member of the Association at least ten days prior to the meeting. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting except as stated in the notice thereof, unless a majority of the members of the Association are present and a motion is made to consider business other than that stated in the notice and approved by two-thirds of the members present. Area Meetings called by the Executive Committee or a majority of the Directors shall be held on week days only.

ARTICLE V

Officers

- a) Officers of the Association shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer elected by the board of directors. Both the president and the vice president must be directors, but the secretary and the treasurer may or may not be, and neither of them need be members of the Association. Neither the president or vice president shall hold office for more than two years in succession and a period of two years from the end of their term of office must elapse before they will again become eligible for election to the same office. Officers may be appointed by the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting whenever a vacancy occurs.

b) Representation by one or more supervisors from a majority of the conservation districts in the state which have paid their dues to the state association for the current year or have been excused from dues payment shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting. The concurrence of a majority of the supervisors present from districts which are current in payment of dues shall be necessary for the determination of all questions at issue, except the location of annual meetings which each district shall have one vote as previously provided for herein, and amendments to these Articles for which a vote of two-thirds of the qualified supervisors present shall be required, as set out in Article X.

ARTICLE VI

Board of Directors

A board of 14 directors, including 2 directors from each of the 6 district areas, and 2 directors to be approved by the President at large from the state shall constitute the governing body. In 1957 one director shall be elected for a one year term and one director for a two year term from each of the district areas. Thereafter one director will be elected to a two year term each year. The district areas shall be as follows: District No. 1 - Daniels, Fergus, Garfield, Judith Basin, Petroleum, Phillips, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Valley Counties; District No. 2 - Carter, Dawson, Fallon, McCone, Custer, Powder River, Prairie, Richland and Wibaux Counties; District No. 3 - Blaine, Cascade, Chouteau, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Pondera, Teton and Toole Counties; District No. 4 - Big Horn, Carbon, Golden Valley, Misselshell, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Wheatland, and Yellowstone Counties; District No. 5 - Deer Lodge, Flathead, Lake, Granite, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, and Sanders Counties; District No. 6 - Beaverhead, Broadwater, Gallatin, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park, and Silver Bow Counties.

The directors shall be elected at the Area Meeting, the time and place of which shall be announced by the President of the Association. Each district shall have one vote for election of their Area Director. The Directors shall take office at the beginning of the regular annual meeting and shall hold office for two years or until their successors have been elected and shall have qualified. Vacancies on the board shall be filled by appointment of the president with the concurrence of the majority of the executive committee.

The Executive Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Association between meetings of the Board of Directors and/or members

of the Association and shall consist of 5 members: President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, and 2 to be appointed by the President from the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall be ex-officio members of all standing committees.

It shall be the duty of the board of directors to effectuate all policies and programs.

The Board of Directors shall suggest the adoption of such articles and by-laws as it deems necessary or desirable for the government and control of this Association. Such suggested changes and additions to the Articles of Association and by-laws shall be made through the Legislative Committee and will be presented at the annual meeting of this Association for adoption by a two-thirds vote of members present. Such recommendations by the Board of Directors shall in no way limit the actions of the Legislative Committee.

The Board of Directors shall elect a National Councilman for a two year term. The Councilman can be re-elected by the Directors provided he is a supervisor.

The Executive Committee may hire an Executive Vice President and staff as an administrative officer for the Association. His duties to be set up by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII

Duties of Officers

The President shall be the executive head of the Association, shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Board of Directors. The president shall appoint the chairmen of the outstanding committees and is automatically ex-officio member of such committees. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the president in his absence or when he is unable to serve. The secretary shall keep minutes of the Association and the Board of Directors and shall furnish to the membership of the Association information pertaining to the activities of the Association. The treasurer shall receive such monies as may be directed by the president and approved by the Board of Directors. The president and secretary of this board of directors shall act as president and secretary respectively, at the annual meeting. The proceedings of all annual, special, and board meetings shall be recorded in a book and the minutes shall be signed by the president and attested by the secretary.

ARTICLE VIII

Dues

The Board of Directors of this Association shall have the authority to assess dues against each district as they deem necessary.

ARTICLE IX

Standing Committees

There will be eight regular committees whose membership will be delegated by appointment from the Districts. They are as follows:

District Operations
Resource Conservation and Development
Water Resources
Range, Forestry & Public Lands
Public Relations
Youth Education
Research
Natural Environment & Wildlife.

The appointment of committee membership will be as follows:

Each district will appoint one of its supervisors on the District Operations and Public Relations Committees. The District may in addition place one of their supervisors on each of the regular committees with the exception that no supervisor may serve on two regular committees, and all supervisors are requested to serve on a committee and attend all general committee meetings.

From this membership the President of MACD will select a chairman and executive group who will be responsible for the on-going business of the committee.

Upon the close of the Annual Convention the MACD Office will notify each District and request their appointments which are to be made by January 1, when terms of office of two-years will begin.

In addition to the regular committees, two special committees will serve. They are:

Finance Committee - which will consist of six members appointed by the President whose charge will be handle financial matters of the Association and its office.

MACD Articles of Association

Page 6

Legislative Coordination Committee - Consisting of an action committee of six members appointed by the president plus a coordination member from each Board selected by the District. The action Committee duties are to conduct any legislative development and work delegated to them by the Association. The coordination members shall act as contact persons when called upon to explain acts and positions of the Association in regard to legislative matters.

Supervisors may hold both a regular and special committee appointment simultaneously but are limited to only one of each. In addition State Association officers and directors shall be eligible to serve on regular and special committees in any capacity. A full qualified quorum for these committees will be no less than two-thirds the membership of that committee.

ARTICLE X

By-Laws and Amendments

By-Laws may be adopted and these Articles of Association may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of all members present at the annual or a special meeting of the Association.
